

*Status of the Claims*

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application.

1. (currently amended) An optical system comprising:
  - a variable wave plate;
  - a reticle; and
  - a first optical device,wherein the reticle is positioned along an axis of a light beam path between a source of the light beam and the first optical device, and  
wherein the variable wave plate is positioned along the axis adjacent the reticle and ~~between the source of the light beam and~~ before the first optical device.
2. (original) The optical system of claim 1, further comprising:
  - said variable wave plate is a Berek's compensator.
3. (original) The optical system of claim 1, further comprising:
  - said variable wave plate is a Soleil-Babinet compensator.
4. (previously presented) The optical system of claim 1, wherein the first optical device comprises:
  - a first lens group positioned along the axis;
  - a reflective device positioned to receive light from the first lens group;and  
a second lens group positioned to receive light from the reflective device.
5. (previously presented) The optical system of claim 4, wherein the first lens group comprises lenses producing a net positive optical power.

6. (previously presented) The optical system of claim 4, wherein the second lens group comprises lenses producing a net negative optical power.

7. (original) The optical system of claim 4, wherein the reflective device directs light exiting the first lens group towards to second lens group

8. (previously presented) The optical system of claim 1, further comprising:  
a beam directing system positioned to receive light from the first optical device; and  
a second optical device positioned to receive light from the beam directed system.

9. (previously presented) The optical system of claim 8, wherein the beam directing system comprises:  
a beam splitter positioned to receive light from the first optical system and direct light toward the second optical system; and  
a reflective device positioned to receive light from the beam splitter and reflect light toward the beam splitter.

10. (original) The optical system of claim 9, wherein:  
light exiting the first optical device is directed to the reflective device using the beam splitter; and  
light reflected from the reflective device is passed through the beam splitter and is received by the second optical device.

11. (original) The optical system of claim 9, further comprising:  
a first quarter-wave plate positioned between the beam splitter and the reflective device; and  
a second quarter-wave plate positioned between the beam splitter and the second optical device.

12. (previously presented) The optical system of claim 8, wherein the second optical device has a positive optical power.